

The Trinity

We believe in the one true, holy, and living God, who exists in three separate persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sometimes we use other terms, such as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. All three are distinct but inseparable forming a perfect and eternal relationship.

God the Father/Creator

God showed power, wisdom, and creativity in making all that is, seen and unseen. God continues to sustain everything and continues to fulfill the divine plan of redeeming the whole creation by constantly offering freedom and grace. We believe that God is loving, and we can experience God's love and grace.

God the Son/Redeemer

Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully human. He lived a perfect life of love and died on the cross to bridge the gap between God and people. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead showing that not even death can stop the power of God's redeeming love. We believe that Jesus is our Savior. In Christ we receive abundant life and forgiveness of sins.

God the Holy Spirit/ Sustainer

The Holy Spirit is in the world reminding us of our need for God, nudging us into relationship with God through Christ, and empowering us to live as God would have us live. The Holy Spirit enables our understanding and application of scripture and gives spiritual gifts to each of us for the building up of the people of God. As we choose to yield to the Holy Spirit's leading, the result is authentic fruit—character and behavior—aligned with God's will.

Human Beings

We believe God created humans in God's own image. While God loves and desires to be in relationship with all people, God also gave us free will. We believe all of us are sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God. It is only through God's grace that we are empowered to choose to accept or reject God's invitation to relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Church

Following Jesus as faithful disciples necessarily involves a community. The Church is comprised of all who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The Bible paints vivid pictures of what believers are to do when we gather: worship, pray, encourage, teach the Word, serve and love each other through our creative giftedness, and reach out to the world. The Church is not made of perfect people or even people who pretend to have it all together. Rather, we are a community of people who hope to grow in love and service in the name of Jesus. All are welcome.

The Bible

We believe the Bible is the primary authority for our faith and practice. The Bible, comprised of 66 books (divided into the Old and New Testaments), describes God's initiative in drawing us back into relationship. Inspired by God, the books of the Bible were written by human authors and, as such, contain their own individual styles, backgrounds, and cultural inflections. We believe the Bible is God's Word and no other writings are so inspired by God.

Salvation

We believe that we are saved by God's grace alone. It is God's good grace working through Christ in us that even allows for us to say yes to God. Nothing we can do or be can contribute to our salvation. However, having said yes to God through our faith in Jesus Christ, we will naturally respond to God's grace by living in gratitude, humble service, and love of God and neighbor.

The Sacraments

With other Protestants, we recognize two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. Through baptism we are joined with the church, the Body of Christ, claimed as God's child, and given new birth through water and the Spirit. Persons of any age can be baptized, but a person only receives the sacrament of baptism one in his/her life. When we receive Holy Communion, bread and juice represent Christ's body and blood, given freely for all. The Lord's Supper recalls the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and celebrates the unity of all the members of God's family. Anyone who wishes to draw near to God and receive the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is welcome to participate in this sacrament of Holy Communion.

Kingdom of God

We believe that wherever God's will is done, the kingdom of God is present. It was present most fully in Jesus' ministry, and it is also present in our world whenever persons and communities experience reconciliation, restoration, and healing. We believe that the fulfillment of God's kingdom—the complete restoration of creation—is still to come. We believe that the Church is called to be both a witness to the vision of what God's kingdom will be like as well as a participant in helping to bring it to completion.